

## IN THE CLAIMS

**Please amend the claims as follows:**

1. (currently amended) A modular optical detector system, comprising:  
a first module, wherein said first module comprises;  
~~a light source~~ an excitation source including a light source,  
collimating optics and filters, and  
optical elements for modifying light from said light source  
and directing the modified light onto a detection region and collecting  
radiation emitted therefrom, wherein the components of the excitation  
source are demountably engaged on a dovetail rail, such that the  
components of the excitation source are maintained in a fixed and stable  
orientation; and  
a second module, wherein said second module comprises detection  
means for receiving and analyzing the emitted radiation, and wherein said  
first module ~~is in optical communication with said second module~~ is  
superposed on said second module.
- 2-5 (canceled)
6. (currently amended) The modular optical detector system of claim 1,  
wherein the light source ~~is capable of providing~~ provides light having a  
wavelength ranging from the infrared to the ultraviolet.
7. (currently amended) The modular detector system of claim 6, wherein  
said light source includes lasers, light-emitting diodes, laser diodes,  
vertical cavity surface emitting lasers, vertical external cavity surface  
emitting lasers, or dipole pumped solid state lasers.
8. (canceled)
9. (currently amended) The modular detector system of claim 8 7,  
wherein ~~said~~ the laser produces light having a wavelength of about 405  
nm.
10. (currently amended) The modular optical detector system of claim 1,  
~~wherein the optical elements are contained within~~ further including a  
beam positioning block and alignment pins that provides for proper  
positioning of said optical elements with respect to a detector area.

11. (currently amended) The modular optical detector system of claim 1, wherein the optical elements include ~~a beam steering mirror system~~ means for conditioning of the light.
12. (currently amended) The modular detector system of claim 11, wherein means for conditioning of the light comprises a beam steering mirror system ~~comprises a 4 mirror system~~.
13. (currently amended) The modular detector system of claim 1, wherein the detection means comprises photomultiplier tubes, photodiodes, avalanche photodiodes, array detectors, charge-coupled devices, or photosensitive detectors.
14. (new claim) The modular detector system of claim 12, wherein the beam steering mirror system comprises a 4 mirror system.